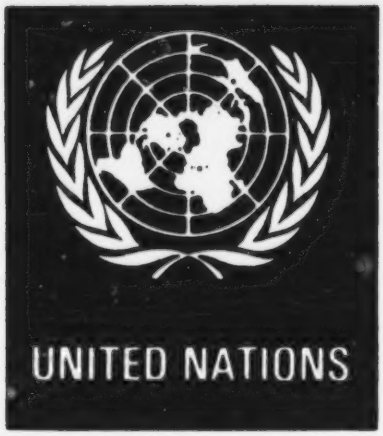

DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

March 1991

Volume XIV, Bulletin No. 3

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91-12969

I. SECURITY COUNCIL DEPLORES ISRAELI EXPULSION OF PALESTINIANS

On 27 March 1991, the Security Council deplored Israel's recent decision to expel four Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories and called upon it to desist from deporting Palestinians from the territories and to ensure the safe return of those deported.

It took that action through a statement read out by Council President Peter Hohenfellner (Austria) on behalf of the Council members. The statement, arrived at following consultations reads as follows:

> "The members of the Security Council are gravely concerned by the continued deterioration of the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and especially by the current serious situation resulting from the imposition of curfews by Israel.
>
> "The members of the Security Council deplore the decision by the Government of Israel to expel four Palestinian civilians in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 which is applicable to the above-mentioned territories and in contravention of relevant resolutions of the Security Council.
>
> "The members of the Security Council also called upon Israel to desist from deporting Palestinians and to ensure the safe return of those deported.
>
> "Recalling Security Council resolution 681 (1990) and other Security Council resolutions, the members of the Security Council will keep the situation described in paragraph 1 above under review." (see press release SC/5264)

READEX FICHE

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 1 March 1991, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/968-S/22294), the Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People made the following statement:

> "In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your urgent attention to the continuous mass detention of Palestinian civilians, including minors, as collective punishment by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory.
>
> "On 22 February 1991, the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz quoted the Israeli military Prosecutor General as saying that, since December 1987, 75,000 Palestinians from the occupied territory have been tried by military courts. He also said that 3,000 Palestinian detainees are currently awaiting trial and 1,400 are currently being held in administrative detention.
>
> "Earlier, on 29 January 1991, Amnesty International reported to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights that, since December 1987, some 14,000 Palestinians, including prisoners of conscience, have been held in administrative detention without charge or trial. Over 4,000 were detained during 1990 for renewable periods of up to one year. According to this report, detainees are effectively unable to exercise the right to challenge their detention, as crucial information about the reasons for the detention is almost invariably withheld. Amnesty International concluded that this practice should not be used to detain prisoners of conscience, nor should it be used as a means to avoid the safeguards of a regular criminal justice system.
>
> "The detention of Palestinians as a policy of collective punishment has included hundreds of minors, some of whom were under 14 years old. According to a July 1990 report of B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, some 1,700 Palestinian minors from East Jerusalem alone, had been detained prior to the date of the report. B'Tselem reported that the

detention of Palestinians, including minors, without trial, often constitutes a punishment in itself.

"B'Tselem further reported that violent treatment of detained minors had become the norm during the period of detention. The detainee is subject to rough handling, shouting and humiliation as a matter of course throughout the period of detention. Amnesty International reported that the systematic use of ill-treatment during the interrogation of detainees continues to be widespread. Methods include beatings with truncheons and rifle butts on various parts of the body; hooding with dirt sacks; sleep deprivation by prolonged shackling in uncomfortable positions; confinement in small and darkened cells often referred to as 'closets'; burning with cigarettes; squeezing of testicles; and sexual harassment.

"The detention of Palestinians by the occupying Power without trial and as a means of collective punishment is a gross violation of Israel's obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, and in particular articles 33, 37, 72 and 78. It constitutes a serious infringement of the individual's rights to protection from arbitrary arrest and due process, stipulated by article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 9 (i) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People wishes to express its condemnation of Israel's policy and practice of collective punishment, which is in violation of its obligations as occupying Power, and requests that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to all the territories occupied since 1967 and abide scrupulously by the provisions of the said Convention and the relevant international instruments.

"The Committee once again reaffirms the imperative and urgent need to ensure effective protection for the Palestinians living under occupation. The Committee appeals to you, Mr. Secretary-General, and to all concerned, to take immediately all necessary action to free the detainees, particularly the minors, and to ensure the safety and protection of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem."

In a subsequent letter dated 26 March 1991, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/985-S/22388), the Acting Chairman of the Committee stated the following:

"In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to condemn the decision by Israel, the occupying Power, to continue its deportations of Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory.

"According to The New York Times of 25 March 1991, the Israeli Defence Minister has ordered the deportation of four residents of the Gaza Strip suspected of directing and taking part in violent acts against Israel. They are: Jamal Abid El Nasser Abu Jabal, 23; Muin Mohammad Husam, 31; Hashim Ahmed Ali, 31, all from Jabaliya refugee camp; and Jamal Mohammad Abu-Eljedian, 34, from Beit Lahiaya. The deportations were ordered following recent stabbing attacks against Israelis, although the four men have not been accused of involvement in any of the attacks.

"The New York Times also reported that since the beginning of the intifadah, Israel has deported at least 69 Palestinians, in violation of article 49 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and several resolutions of the Security Council.

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is gravely concerned at the increasing imposition of harsh collective punishment against the population of the occupied Palestinian territory, such as curfews, school closings, administrative detention, and other repressive measures contrary to Israel's obligations as the occupying Power. The Committee is also greatly concerned at recent statements by Israeli officials indicating an intention to increase the number and size of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory and showing intransigence towards efforts to promote a just political settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

"In the light of these disturbing developments, the Committee wishes to reaffirm the imperative need for the international community, and in particular the High Contracting Parties to the fourth Geneva Convention, to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for its obligations under the Convention, and to take all necessary measures to ensure effective protection for the Palestinians

living under occupation, as well as to redouble its efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace."

III. UNRWA ANNOUNCES CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM AUSTRIA, SPAIN, UNITED STATES AND JAPAN

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 6 March 1991:

"Austria has contributed $1 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to help it accommodate additional Palestine refugee schoolchildren who have enrolled in Agency schools in Jordan owing to the Gulf crisis.

"The contribution will help cover the costs faced by UNRWA in accommodating an extra 2,500 Palestine refugee children who arrived in Jordan from the Gulf between August and December 1990.

"Of the amount, $633,500 will cover the salaries of an additional 60 teachers for this year as well as books and other materials for the extra students. The remaining $366,500 will finance the construction of 18 additional classrooms at the UNRWA schools in the Amman-Zarqa area.

"Meanwhile, Spain has announced a contribution to UNRWA of about $207,000 for the Agency's project to build a 200-bed general hospital in Israeli-occupied Gaza.

"The UNRWA is seeking contributions to cover the $35 million needed to build and equip a hospital in Gaza and run it for the first three years." (see PAL/1756)

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 21 March 1991:

"The United States Government on 19 March announced a special contribution of $5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for the Agency's emergency programmes for Palestine refugees in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"An official statement issued in Washington, D.C., said that President George Bush had authorized the use of this amount from the Emergency Refugee and Migration assistance

Fund 'to meet the unexpected urgent needs of refugees in the occupied territories.'

"UNRWA has been carrying out a programme of emergency food distributions in the West Bank and Gaza to alleviate hardships faced by Palestinians as a consequence of the Gulf crisis. The Agency has also sought funding for other emergency measures in the occupied territories, including expanded medical care and general protection of Palestinian human rights through a Refugee Affairs Officer programme.

"The United States is the biggest single-country donor to UNRWA's voluntarily funded education, health, relief and social programmes for some 2.4 million Palestine refugees. The United States has pledged $62 million to UNRWA's regular programmes for 1991, and contributed $4 million to help fund the emergency measures in the period 1989-1990."
(see PAL/1757)

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 27 March 1991:

"Japan has announced a contribution of 1.37 billion yen (the equivalent of about $10 million) to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for the Agency's emergency programme of assistance to Palestine refugees in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is the largest single contribution to UNRWA's emergency programme in 1991.

"In an official statement issued in Tokyo, the Government of Japan indicated that the donation was a humanitarian gesture aimed at alleviating hardships faced by Palestinians in the occupied territories as a consequence of the Gulf crisis.

"UNRWA made a special appeal for financial support for the Agency's emergency programme in the occupied territory at the outbreak of the Gulf war. The Agency has been carrying out food distributions to 295,000 Palestinian households in the West Bank and Gaza in response to the difficulties caused by the disruption of economic activities in the area and the loss of remittance from the Gulf."
(See PAL/1760)

IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

A. Preparatory meetings of NGOs recommend programmes for the North American NGO Symposium, the International NGO Meeting and the European NGO Symposium

A preparatory meeting for the North American NGO Symposium was held at United Nations Headquarters on 11 and 12 February 1991. Also, a preparatory meeting for the International NGO meeting and the European NGO Symposium took place at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 25 and 26 March 1991. The meetings were attended by members of the respective coordinating committees of NGOs and a delegation of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Participants discussed the format and topics to be addressed by the NGO conferences to be held under the auspices of the Committee later this year, as well as names of panelists and workshop leaders to be invited. The provisional programmes recommended by the preparatory meetings were later adopted by the full Committee and are reproduced below:

1. EIGHTH UNITED NATIONS NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

This symposium will take place either in Montreal from Friday, 28 June to Sunday, 30 June 1991 or, alternatively, in New York from Wednesday, 26 June to Friday, 28 June 1991. Specific timing of elements of the programme will vary according to the venue. Should the event take place in Montreal, the proposed times of meetings are reflected below.

Provisional programme

Theme: Palestine: Protecting lives and promoting peace - The impact of the Gulf war

Friday, 28 June

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. Opening meeting

	Statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
	Statement by the Chairman of the North American Regional Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine
	Statement by the representative for Palestine
11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Plenary meeting
	Panel Palestine: protecting lives and promoting peace - the impact of the Gulf war
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Lunch break
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Plenary meeting
	Teach-in on Israeli/Palestinian conflict (including presentations on history of conflict, Palestine Liberation Organization, Israeli peace movement, land and water, immigration, transfer, international peace conference)
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Simultaneous workshops
	Special protection needs of: 1) Educational and cultural institutions; 2) Palestinian children; 3) Palestinians in the Middle East region; 4) Palestinian women; 5) Prisoners.
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Repeat workshops 1-5 above

Saturday, June 29

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Plenary meeting
	Palestine: Responding to current developments
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Simultaneous workshops
	(Critical issues for NGO work)
	6) Aid to Israeli occupation and imposing sanctions;
	7) Delegations (short-term and long-term);
	8) International law and strategies to encourage the United States and Canada to develop measures to ensure respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention;
	9) International peace conference;
	10) Land, settlements and immigration;
	11) Media strategies;
	12) Strategies for raising the Palestine question in the context of grassroots initiatives for a resolution of the Gulf war;
	13) Twinning/sister relations.
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Lunch break
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Repeat workshops 6-13 above
7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Hafli Salaam: Peace celebration
	What's next for Palestine/Israel after the Gulf war?

Sunday, June 30

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Simultaneous workshops

	<u>Organizing strategies for Canadian and United States constituencies for protection and peace:</u> 14) Canadian-Arab and American-Arab communities; 15) Educators - elementary and secondary; 16) Environmental activists; 17) Religious communities: a) Christian, b) Jewish, c) Muslim. 18) Unions; 19) University communities; 20) Women.
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Business meeting (elections, reports from workshops)
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Lunch break
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Meeting of newly elected North American Regional Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (NACC)

2. FIFTH UNITED NATIONS EUROPEAN REGIONAL NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Austria Center, Vienna
26-27 August 1991

Provisional programme

Theme: Time for Palestine
The role of Europe in securing Palestinian rights

Monday, 26 August

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Registration
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Opening meeting
11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Plenary meeting
	Implementation of United Nations resolutions on Palestine: European collective responsibility and strategies following the Gulf war
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Lunch break
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Workshops
	I. Effective lobby work in Europe: Review of past experience and future initiatives;
	II. Mobilizing public opinion in Europe: End the Occupation Now;
	III. Contributing to fair and factual reporting on Palestinian issues in the mass media.

Tuesday, 27 August

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Plenary meeting

	International protection of the Palestinian people: The responsibilities of European States as co-signatories of the Fourth Geneva Convention
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Workshops
	IV. New initiatives for securing international protection for the Palestinian people;
	V. Economic effects of the Gulf war on Palestinians: NGO actions;
	VI. Jewish immigration and its impact on Palestinian rights: responsibilities of European States and public opinion;
	VII. Development projects on Palestine: how to cooperate with governmental and intergovernmental institutions
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Lunch break
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Elections
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Workshop reports
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Final Declaration
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Closing meeting

3. EIGHTH UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Austria Center, Vienna
28-30 August 1991

Provisional programme

Theme: PALESTINE NOW!
The establishment of the independent Palestinian State
under the leadership of the PLO
is the key to Middle East peace

Wednesday, 28 August

morning	Opening meeting
	Statement by the representative of the Host Government
	Statement by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations
	Statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
	Statement by the Chairman of the International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine
	Statement by eminent person/s
	Statement by the representative of Palestine
afternoon	Plenary meeting
	Panel 1:
	United Nations protection, United Nations resolutions, from the Gulf to Palestine

Thursday, 29 August

morning	Plenary meeting
	Panel 2:
	Palestine update
afternoon	Workshops

Friday, 30 August

morning	Plenary meeting
	Panel 3:
	NGO Forum - A call to action
	What have we accomplished? What remains to be done? How shall we proceed?
afternoon	Workshops

I. The protection of the Palestinian people and its independent infrastructure in occupied Palestine: Focus on education;

II. Human rights in the occupied territories: The reunification of Palestinian families;

III. Soviet Jewish immigration and its effect on Palestinian human and national rights;

IV. NGO methods and strategies for lobbying Governments on behalf of Palestinian national rights and strategies for mobilization for the international peace conference;

V. Regional demilitarization and disarmament: establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction;

VI. Land, water and settlements.

Closing meeting

* * * * *

B. Documentation

In the course of March, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. Palestine, a fortnightly supplement of Falestine Al-Thawra, available from: 13, Botsari Street, Nicosia, Cyprus.

2. Jerusalem, publication of Palestine Committee for NGOs. Available from: B.P. 554, Tunis Cedex 1080, Tunis, Tunisia.

3. Israel and Palestine Political Report, available from Magelan, 5 rue Cardinal Mercier 75009, Paris, France.

4. Action for Palestine, bulletin published by London Friends of Palestine, 21 Collingham Road, London SW5 ONV United Kingdom.

5. The American Alliance for Palestinian Human Rights, available from 2435, Virginia Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, United States of America.

6. Challenge, a bi-monthly magazine of the Israeli left, written by Jewish and Arab activists for the international community concerned with peace in the Middle East, particularly with a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Available from: P.O. Box 2760, Tel Aviv 61026, Israel.

7. Oriente Medio, publication of Amigos de Palestina, available from: Apartado 2102, 37080, Salamanca, Spain.

8. The Other Front, available from: the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

9. AJME News, journal of Americans for Justice in the Middle East, available from: P.O. Box 113-5581, Beirut, Lebanon.

10. News from Within, independent newsletter, available from: Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

11. The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, monthly publication available from: P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.

12. ICCP Newsletter No. 32, available from: the International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, 150 route de Ferney, Case postale 2100, CH-1211, Geneva 2, Switzerland.

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UNITED NATIONS

DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

April 1991

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91-15097

I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 18 April 1991, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/998-S/22511), the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People made the following statement:

> "In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your most urgent attention to the expansion and intensification of Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, by Israel, the occupying Power, which is thus in violation of its international obligations and obstructing the peace process in the region.
>
> "The New York Times reported on 17 April 1991 that a new Jewish settlement (Revava) had been opened on 16 April in the West Bank. It also reported that the Israeli Housing Minister has plans to build 13,000 housing units in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and to accelerate the expansion of Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem.
>
> "On 5 April 1991, the Washington Post reported that the Israeli Government had just supplied several settlements with 1,200 trailer homes to be used by newly-arrived Soviet Jews. It also reported that these housing units were part of a Government plan to increase the Jewish population in the occupied Palestinian territories by 50 per cent.
>
> "The daily paper Hadashot reported on 26 March 1991 that, according to the Peace Now movement of Israel, the Israeli housing budget for 1990-1991 in the occupied Palestinian territories had exceeded $550 million, which is considerably more than in past years. According to the same newspaper, some 200,000 settlers are currently living in 200 settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.
>
> "The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People strongly deplores this intensification of the settlements policy and practice

pursued by Israel, the occupying Power, in violation of its obligations under article 49 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and of Security Council resolutions 446 (1979), 452 (1979) and 465 (1980). Furthermore, these actions are hindering efforts to reach a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The Committee requests that Israel cease its settlement activities immediately and accept the de jure applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and that it abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention and of the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Committee appeals urgently to you and to all the parties concerned, in particular the High Contracting Parties to the fourth Geneva Convention, to take all necessary measures to achieve these essential objectives."

II. COMMITTEE ADOPTS PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1991, AND APPROVES PROGRAMME FOR EUROPEAN REGIONAL SEMINAR

At its 177th meeting on 8 April 1991, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People adopted the following programme of work for 1991 (see A/AC.183/1991/CRP.1/Rev.1):

"I. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

"1. The Committee's mandate for 1991 is contained in General Assembly resolutions 45/67 A and B, the relevant parts of which are paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of resolution 45/67 A and paragraph 2 of resolution 45/67 B.

"2. In paragraph 3 of resolution 45/67 A, the Committee is requested to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine as well as the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate.

"3. In paragraph 4 of the same resolution the Committee is authorized to continue to exert all efforts to promote the implementation of its recommendations, including

representation at conferences and meetings and the sending of delegations, to make such adjustments in its approved programme of seminars and of symposia and meetings for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as it may consider necessary, to give special emphasis to the need to mobilize public opinion in Europe and North America, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and thereafter.

"4. In paragraph 5 of the same resolution the Committee is requested to continue to extend its co-operation to NGOs in their contribution towards heightening international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and in creating a more favourable atmosphere for the full implementation of the Committee's recommendations, and to take the necessary steps to expand its contacts with those organizations.

"5. Resolution 45/67 B deals with the work programme of the Division for Palestinian Rights. In paragraph 2, the Secretary-General is requested to provide the Division with the necessary resources and to ensure that it continues to discharge the tasks detailed in the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance.

"6. Resolution 45/67 C deals with the programme of work of the Department of Public Information. In paragraph 2, the Department is requested, in full co-operation and co-ordination with the Committee, to continue its special information programme on the question of Palestine for the remainder of the biennium 1990-1991, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America.

"II. PRIORITY ISSUES IN THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1991

"7. The Committee has continued to give utmost priority to promoting the early convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions. It has urged all concerned to work for the early resolution of this problem, which covers a large region and affects the maintenance of international peace and security.

"8. Since the beginning of the intifadah in December 1987 and taking into account the harsh repressive policies of the occupying Power, Israel, the Committee has repeatedly

called for measures to ensure the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation. It has also appealed for an end to the Israeli repressive measures which have resulted in a large loss of life, injuries, detentions, deportations, demolition of houses, uprooting of productive trees and diversion of resources, all in contravention of the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention, which is fully applicable to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem as well as to the other Arab territories occupied since 1967.

"9. In light of the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, the Committee will take all possible additional measures to strengthen its role in monitoring the situation of Palestinians under occupation and promoting the adoption of concrete measures by the High Contracting Parties to the fourth Geneva Convention to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying Power, of the Convention in all circumstances in conformity with their obligation under Article 1 of the Convention.

"10. With the recent manifestation of a renewed international determination to ensure equity, justice and consistency in the application of the principles of international law, it is of the utmost importance for the Committee to intensify efforts to bring about a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In this regard, the Committee will stress the importance of the implementation of all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the question of Palestine and the Middle East situation.

"11. The activities of the Committee in 1991 will focus on the following:

"(a) The need for convening with urgency the International Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions for the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region.

"(b) The *intifadah* of the Palestinian people, the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and the need for international support and assistance;

"(c) International protection of the Palestinian people under occupation, including measures that could be taken by the High Contracting Parties to the fourth Geneva Convention

in order to ensure respect for the Convention by Israel, the occupying Power, in all circumstances;

"(d) The increasing Jewish immigration - Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, - the adverse impact on the achievement of a just settlement of the question of Palestine.

"12. The priority issues indicated above will be addressed in all regional seminars and NGO symposia and meetings held under the auspices of the Committee.

"III. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

"A. Action by the Committee

"13. In accordance with past practice and with paragraph 3 of resolution 45/67 A, the Committee will continue to monitor the situation relating the question of Palestine and to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and, through its Chairman, to convey its considered views thereon to the General Assembly and to the Security Council, as appropriate. As in the past, the Bureau may, whenever urgent action is required, through its Chairman, draw the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Assembly and/or the Security Council to developments affecting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

"14. In response to paragraph 4 of resolution 45/67 A and in accordance with past practice, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to address a letter to all Member States emphasizing the urgent need for positive action with regard to the holding of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and reiterating the Committee's invitation to all Member States to participate in, and contribute to, its work.

"15. Also with reference to paragraph 4 of resolution 45/67 A and in the light of the fact that the Assembly in resolution 45/68 has once again invited the Security Council to consider measures needed to convene the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, including the establishment of a preparatory committee, the Committee will take an active role in all aspects relating to the convening of the Conference and the search for peace. The Committee

will initiate a process of interaction with all concerned for the regular exchange of information and views.

"16. In this regard, the Committee will meet on a regular basis with the relevant officials and bodies within and outside the United Nations system; send delegations to consult with Governments, non-governmental organizations, and others as considered appropriate; hold special meetings to hear experts on specific issues; and undertake other activities as necessary.

"17. In accordance with the practice of the past several years, the Committee will continue to formulate and implement its programme of regional seminars as well as of symposia and meetings for NGOs and to increase its contacts and co-operation with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in order to create greater awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and the urgent need to intensify efforts for achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of this problem. In this respect, the Committee will intensify its efforts in particular in the countries of Europe and North America.

"B. Seminars

"18. In accordance with established practice, regional seminars would be held in 1991 in Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and North America. It may be recalled that the seminars for Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean regional and Europe are scheduled to be held once in two years. Since the Latin American and Caribbean seminar and NGO symposium was already held at Buenos Aires from 5 to 9 February 1990 after being deferred from 1989, the Committee has decided to hold a European Regional Seminar in 1991 instead of a Latin American and Caribbean Seminar and NGO Symposium. Such a decision is also in response to the request made by the General Assembly in resolution 45/67 A that special emphasis be given to mobilizing public opinion in Europe and North America.

"19. In this regard, the Committee decided at its 171st meeting held on 25 October 1990 to accept the kind offer of the Government of Spain to provide the venue for the European regional seminar at Madrid from 27 to 30 May 1991.

"20. With regard to the North American regional seminar, which is usually held at Headquarters immediately preceding the North American NGO regional symposium, a final decision will be made depending on the outcome of

consultations concerning the holding of the NGO symposium in Canada. [1/]

"21. With regard to the Asian seminar, which would be held jointly with the Asian regional NGO symposium, consultations have been undertaken with prospective host Governments. The venue and dates remain to be decided. [2/]

"C. Non-governmental organizations preparatory meetings, regional symposia and international meeting

"22. Provision has been made for the holding in 1991 of NGO regional symposia in Asia, North America and Europe, and of an international meeting of NGOs. Provision has also been made for two preparatory meetings (for the North American symposium and for the European Symposium/ International Meeting, respectively).

"23. The Preparatory Meeting for the North American regional NGO symposium was held at Headquarters in New York, on 11 and 12 February 1991; The Preparatory Meeting for the International NGO Meeting, was held on 25 and 26 March 1991, at Geneva.

"24. The Asian regional NGO symposium would be held jointly with the Asian Regional seminar for a duration of five days. The venue and dates remain to be decided. [2/]

"25. Subject to agreement by the Canadian authorities to provide the venue for the North American Symposium, it is envisaged that this event would take place at Montreal from 26 to 28 June 1991. Alternatively, the Seminar and the Symposium would be held at Headquarters, New York, on 24 and 25 June and 26 to 28 June, respectively. [1/]

"26. In accordance with established practice, the European symposium and the International Meeting will be

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1/ The Government of Canada has since agreed to host the North American regional NGO symposium at Montreal from 28 to 30 June 1991. A decision regarding the Seminar has yet to be made.

2/ At its 177th meeting, the Committee was informed that the Government of Cyprus had agreed to host the Symposium and Seminar. It is expected that these events will take place from 20 to 23 January 1992, and 20 to 24 January 1992, respectively.

held consecutively on 26 and 27 August and 28 to 30 August, respectively. The Committee decided to accept the kind offer by the Austrian Government to provide the venue for these meetings at the Austria Center in Vienna.

"D. Studies and publications of the Division for Palestinian Rights

"27. In accordance with its mandate, the Division for Palestinian Rights will continue, in 1991, to prepare, under the guidance of the Committee, the following publications:

"(a) Monthly bulletins covering action by the Committee, other United Nations organs and agencies, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the question of Palestine; the presentation of such bulletins to be improved with the assistance of the Department of Public Information;

"(b) Reports of regional seminars, regional NGO symposia and the International NGO Meeting;

"(c) Special bulletin on the 1990 observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People;

"(d) A compilation of relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council in 1990;

"(e) Monitoring reports and monthly summary reports on developments affecting Palestinian rights as reflected in Arab, English and Hebrew language media for the use of the Committee.

"28. As was proposed by the Committee, a compilation of seminar papers on the legal aspects of the question of Palestine is being completed and will be issued shortly.

"29. The Division is presently in the process of updating its studies published in the late 1970s and early 1980s. It is envisaged that during 1991 the Division will prepare updates of the following studies:

"(a) "The question of Palestine" (1979) (first draft, covering 1979-1990, has already been circulated to the members of the Committee for comments);

"(b) "The need for convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East" (1989);

"(c) "Israel's policy on the West Bank water resources" (1980);

"(d) "Acquisition of land in Palestine" (1980).

"30. In response to a request of the Committee, the Division will conduct research for the question of water resources in the Gaza Strip.

"31. In addition, the Division will prepare urgently and update regularly, for the use of Committee members and observers, a compilation of the most recent relevant statements, declarations and proposals regarding the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the question of Palestine and the convening of the International Peace Conference. The Department of Public Information is requested to prepare an attractive brochure on this topic containing excerpts of the most important United Nations resolutions and key statements.

"32. The Division for Palestinian Rights is also requested to study the feasibility of establishing a computerized database relating to the question of Palestine.

"E. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

"33. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People will be observed on Friday, 29 November 1991. The Committee decided in principle that the observance at Headquarters, United Nations offices at Geneva and Vienna and elsewhere would follow the same format as in 1990. It was also decided that consideration would be given in due course to ways and means of strengthening the effectiveness of the observance.

"34. As in the past, the Committee decided to invite the Office of the Permanent Observer of Palestine to provide an exhibit to be displayed at United Nations Headquarters during the week of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People."

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Also at its 177th meeting, on 8 April 1991, the Committee approved the following programme:

UNITED NATIONS EUROPEAN REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Madrid, Spain
27 to 30 May 1991

Monday, 27 May 1991

8.00 a.m. - 9.30 a.m.	Registration 3/
10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	Opening meeting: Statements by:
	- Representative of the host Government
	- Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations
	- Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
	- Representative of Palestine
	(Brief recess)
	Statements by representatives of intergovernmental organizations
3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.	**Panel I: The intifadah; the safety and protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory**
	(A) Protection of the Palestinian civilian population under occupation: action by the international community;
	(B) The obligations of the High Contracting Parties to ensure respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention;

3/ Registration starts on Friday, 24 May 1991, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Saturday, 25 May, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Sunday, 26 May, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(C) NGO activities to protect lives of Palestinian civilians and to promote peace;

(D) Economic assistance to promote the genuine social and economic development of the occupied Palestinian territory: the role of Europe;

(E) Presentation on the panel as a whole.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS TO THE PANELISTS

Tuesday, 28 May 1991

10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.
3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Panel II: The urgency of the implementation of the United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East

(A) The urgency of convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East;

(B) The EEC and the International Peace Conference on the Middle East;

(C) Peace, security and cooperation in the Middle East; new opportunities after the Gulf war;

(D) The increasing Jewish immigration and Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem;

(E) The problem of the Palestine refugees;

(F) Presentation on the panel as a whole.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY QUESTIONS TO THE PANELISTS

Wednesday, 29 May 1991

11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Discussion on panels I and II

3.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

4.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. **Consultations between panelists and Committee delegation:**

Finalization of conclusions and recommendations

Thursday, 30 May 1991

3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. **Final meeting:**

Adoption of conclusions and recommendations

Statements by:

- Representative of host Government
- Representative of Palestine
- Representative of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

A number of prominent panelists, including parliamentarians, politicians, political analysts and journalists from Europe, the United States, the Soviet Union, Israel, as well as a number of well-known Palestinian leaders, have been invited to this Seminar, the first organized by the Committee in a country member of the European Community.

III. UNRWA EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER VIOLENCE AGAINST ITS STAFF IN GAZA AND ANNOUNCES THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO EXTEND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR REGULAR AND EMERGENCY PROGRAMMES

The following press release was issued by UNRWA on 29 April 1991 (see PAL/1761):

"The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has expressed its concern for the welfare of Agency staff working in increasingly violent circumstances in the Gaza Strip, following the brutal killing on 24 April of an Agency teacher.

"Mohammed Younis Ghattas was stabbed 11 times by masked men in broad daylight on the premises of an UNRWA elementary school in Khan Younis camp in full view of pupils. The killing of the teacher comes as the culmination of a series of incidents in which UNRWA staff and property have been threatened and attacked by members of the community.

"Since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising, seven staff members have been killed in the Gaza Strip by unidentified assailants as alleged collaborators. Three of the killings took place on UNRWA premises.

"Seven assaults on UNRWA staff members have taken place in the past two months. Three area staff members were beaten or shot by masked men as alleged informers. In one incident, an UNRWA nurse was stabbed by masked men in the UNRWA health centre in Rafah. Since 20 March, Agency vehicles carrying international and area staff have on a number of occasions been stoned by members of the community.

"These incidents come against a background of heightened tension in which the Agency is under increasing pressure from the refugee population to alleviate economic hardship in the Gaza Strip. In these circumstances, the Agency must rely upon the understanding and cooperation of the refugees in carrying out its humanitarian task."

Also on 29 April, the following press release was issued by UNRWA (see PAL/1762):

"The European Community, the largest single donor in 1991 to UNRWA's emergency programmes for Palestine refugees

in the Near East, continues to extend generous financial support to the Agency.

"Last November, the Community announced contributions in cash and kind worth more than $60 million, within the context of a protocol providing some $150 million in European Community assistance to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) over the period 1990-1992, which was signed between the Community and UNRWA in April 1990.

"The Community's contribution for UNRWA's regular programmes in 1991 includes $30 million for education programmes, $2.4 million for health programmes and $3.3 million to finance the supplementary feeding programme.

"In February, the Community swiftly responded with food aid worth $10 million to a special appeal by UNRWA for contributions to alleviate food shortages faced by the Palestinian population in the occupied territory as a consequence of the Gulf war. The donation of some 14,600 tonnes of flour and 3,300 tonnes of vegetable oil provided the basis for a one-time emergency food distribution to some 295,000 refugee and non-refugee families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"This special contribution came in addition to an earlier donation of foodstuffs worth some $7 million for emergency distribution to refugees in the occupied territory. The Community has also pledged about $1.5 million this year towards a $35 million project to build a hospital in Gaza, for which UNRWA is seeking funds."

IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

In the course of April, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. ICCP Newsletter No. 33, available from: the International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, 150, route de Ferney, Case postale 2100, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland.

2. Middle East International, bi-weekly publication, available from: P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.

3. News from Within, independent newsletter, available from: Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem.

4. AJME News, journal of Americans for Justice in the Middle East, available from: P.O. Box 113-5581, Beirut, Lebanon.

5. TANMIYA, quarterly newsletter issued by the Welfare Association concerning developments in the fields of Palestinian education, health, economic affairs and culture. Available from: 7, Av. Pictet-de-Rochemont, P.O. Box 602, CH-1211, Geneva 6, Switzerland.

6. Jerusalem, publication of Palestine Committee for NGOs. Available from: B.P. 554, Tunis Cedex 1080, Tunis, Tunisia.

7. Israel and Palestine Political Report, available from: Magelan, 5 rue Cardinal Mercier 75009, Paris, France.

8. Solidarité Palestine, bi-monthly publication of the Franco-Palestinian Medical Association. Available from: 14, rue de Nanteuil, 75015, Paris, France.

9. Derechos Humanos, publication of the Asociación por Derechos Humanos de España, available from: José Ortega y Gasset, 77, 2, 28006 Madrid, Spain.

10. Afro-Asian Solidarity, publication available from: 89 Abdel Aziz Al-Seoud Street, 11451-61 Marial El-Roda, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.

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